

NSC BRIEFING

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

23 January 1957

ALGERIA

- I. UN discussion (end Jan) may be signal for bloody outbreaks in Algeria: French troops now engaged in "great show of force" to forestall trouble.
 - A. Rebels calling for general strike at time of UN debate.
 - B. One rebel spokesman says strong military offensive will accompany: heavy rebel reserves reportedly being concentrated.
 - C. 1.2 million European "colons" in violent mood: may take initiative themselves.
 - D. French forces (400,000) not likely to repress "colon" attacks; Paris reports strong pro-"colon" sympathy among junior officers, non-coms.
 1. Three generals "disciplined" for ties with "colon" independence plotting.
- II. In UN, France may join procedural maneuver to shelve Algerian issue after debate.
 - A. France has apparently abandoned plan to demand vote on issue of UN competence in "internal" matter.
 - B. However, France has not given up threat to withdraw from UN if Afro-Asians win UN condemnation of French.

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ALGERIA

I. US Consul General in Algeria reported 22 Jan that French army in city is putting on "great show of force" to forestall possible outbreaks coincident with UN discussion of Algerian question (end of Jan).

A. European-Moslem tension throughout Algeria is at all-time high.

B. Acts either by rebels, French "colons" (total: 1.2 million), or French military (total: 400,000) might ignite explosion.

II. Rebels have rejected Mollet's renewed 9 Jan bid for cease-fire without prior political commitments.

A. Rebels calling for week-long "general strike" at time of UN debate.

1. French security chief in Algiers has threatened to break open any Moslem shop observing strike.

2. Rebels threaten retaliatory action for non-observance.

B. Rebel spokesman in Tripoli claims strong military offensive will be timed with strike.

C. Others claim heavy rebel reserves are concentrating for action if UN fails them.

D. "Colons" (European settlers) have set up own headquarters to coordinate reprisal activities.

1. May try counteraction to strike or to unfavorable UN developments.

E. Pessimistic Mayor of Algiers claims only permanent solution

III. French military unlikely to suppress any "colon" attacks on Moslems: might even support them.

A. Paris officials say French junior officers and non-coms sympathetic with European residents.

B. Three French generals recently disciplined for involvement in alleged "colon" plot to establish Algerian "white republic."

IV. In UN French may support procedural maneuver to shelve Algerian issue after discussion.

A. French have apparently abandoned earlier plan to demand vote on issue of UN competence to consider "internal" matter.

B. However, France has not given up threat to withdraw from UN, should Afro-Asian Bloc achieve official UN condemnation of French activities in Algeria.

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